

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following amended Abstract for the Abstract as currently pending (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

The invention provides a [[A]] ~~method is provided~~ for manufacturing a molded woody article, which. ~~The method~~ includes compression molding a base material containing wood fibers, polylactic acid fibers and an inorganic filler at a temperature not less than a melting point of [[said]] the polylactic acid fibers, and maintaining [[said]] the molded base material at a temperature close to a crystallization temperature of [[said]] the polylactic acid fibers for a desired period of time, thereby crystallizing the polylactic acid fibers. In the molding step, the base material is entirely deformed and molded into a desired shape while the polylactic acid fibers are melted, and in the crystallizing step, the polylactic acid fibers are solidified, thereby producing the molded article. In the crystallizing step, polylactic acid crystallizes rapidly and reliably utilizing the inorganic filler as a crystal nucleating agent. ~~Polylactic acid crystallizes from portions contacting the wood fibers.~~